

Article 19 Amendment

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A multimedia data recording apparatus
5 comprising:

a layer classification section that classifies multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to data contents or data precision;

10 a recording section that continuously records data classified into said layers in memory; and

a data amount reduction section that, when vacant capacity of said memory is at or below a threshold value, performs deletion in order starting with data classified into a lower layer of said hierarchical layers among data 15 recorded in said memory.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus
20 according to claim 1, wherein said layer classification section classifies said multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to frame rate, required image quality or resolution, image variation amount between frames, required storage time, MPEG (Moving
25 Picture Experts Group) data picture type, importance of a recorded event, or an enhancement layer of data coded by an MPEG scalable coding method.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus
5 according to claim 1, wherein said data amount reduction
section performs deletion in order starting with older
data or less important data among data recorded in a lower
layer.

10 6. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus
according to claim 5, wherein said data amount reduction
section does not delete data that has not passed a minimum
storage time among data recorded in a lower layer.

15 7. (Amended) The multimedia data recording apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein:

 said layer classification section sets said
 multimedia data in a plurality of segments according to
 a time of acquisition of this data and then classifies
20 said multimedia data into said layers for each said
 segment; and

 said data amount reduction section selects a segment
 whose said time of acquisition is older, and performs
 deletion in order starting with data recorded in a lower
25 layer within this segment.

8. (Amended) A monitoring system equipped with the

multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1, said monitoring system further comprising a detection section that detects event occurrence in a monitored area; wherein said data amount reduction section excludes 5 at least one or a plurality of layers in which data related to said event is recorded from data amount reduction as a protected layer.

9. (Amended) A monitoring system comprising:
10 the multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1;
a measuring section that measures frequency of access to data recorded in said memory; and
a change section that changes at least one or a 15 plurality of layers in which data whose frequency of access is greater than or equal to a predetermined value among data recorded in said memory to a protected layer that is not subject to data amount reduction by said data amount reduction section.

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10. (Amended) A monitoring system comprising:
the multimedia data recording apparatus according to claim 1; and
a determination section that determines mutual 25 similarity of data recorded in said memory;
wherein said data amount reduction section performs deletion in order starting with data recorded in a lower

layer for a layer in which older data is recorded among data determined to have a high degree of similarity by said determination section.

5 11. (Amended) A multimedia data recording method comprising:

 a layer classifying step of classifying multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to data contents or data precision;

10 a recording step of continuously recording data classified into said layers in memory; and

 a data amount reducing step of, when vacant capacity of said memory is at or below a threshold value, taking older data or less important data among data recorded 15 in said memory as its object, and reducing a data amount of these data.